

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1574

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN FISHERY ASSOCIATION VIEWS ON US FISHERY ACT

1. ONLY JULY 12, A DELEGATION OF TEN FISHING INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES, REPRESENTING THE JAPAN FISHERY ASSOCIATION, CALLED ON E/C COUNS TO PRESENT COPY OF PETITION WHICH THE ASSOCIATION DELIVERED TO THE GOJ CONCERNING ITS VIEWS ON THE FORTHCOMING US-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. THE PETITION LISTED FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATIONS FOR MAINTAINING JAPAN'S HISTORICAL CATCH LEVELS. A) JAPAN DEVELOPED NORTHEAST PACIFIC FISHERY RESOURCES, INCLUDING SPECIES WHICH ARE STILL UNUTILIZED BY THE U.S., AHEAD OF OTHER COUNTRIES. B) JAPAN'S NORTHEAST PACIFIC FISHERY WITH A CATCH OF 1.6 MILLION METRIC TONS (1974), EMPLOYS 700 VESSELS AND 30,000 CREW AND, TOGETHER WITH RELATED INDUSTRIES, IS OF MAJOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN. C) FISH ARE THE SOURCE OF HALF THE ANIMAL PROTEIN INTAKE OF THE JAPANESE, AND LOSS OF A MAJOR HISTORICAL CATCH WOULD CREATE A SERIOUS FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM. D) THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US WILL SET PRECEDENTS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WILL HAVE FAR REACHING SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF JAPANESE FISHERIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

2. PETITION MENTIONED AN ATTACHMENT (NOT PROVIDED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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COPY PRESENTED TO EMBASSY) LISTING THE INDUSTRY'S

MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WITH TY NEW US FISHERY LAW.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS DOCUMENT, PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 12
"SUISAN KEIZAI," ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) LAW PERMITS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF FOREIGN FISHER-
MEN CONVICTED OF VIOLATIONS.

B) IT SEEKS TO PROHIBIT FISHING FOR AN ADROMOUS
SPECIES OUTSIDE US CONSERVATION ZONE.

C) LICENSING PROCEDURE AND ITS SCHEDULING AND CO-
ORDINATION WITH MANAGEMENT PLAN IS NOT CLEAR. IT
MAY BE TECHNICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ADMINISTER IN SUCH A
WAY AS TO PERMIT ORDERLY PREPARATIONS AND ON-TIME
DEPARTURES FOR THE FISHING GROUNDS.

D) FISHING FEES MAY IMPOSE COSTS OF US FISHERY MANAGEMENT
AND ADMINISTRATION OF A CUMBERSOME LAW ENTIRELY ON
FOREIGNERS.

E) ECOLOGICAL AND RECREATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN
DETERMINING ALLOWABLE CATCH ARE VAGUELY PRESCRIBED
AND MAY BE ABUSED.

F) CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING US HARVESTING CAPACITY
ARE NOT STATED AND MAY LEAD TO EXAGGERATED ESTIMATES.

G) LAW DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH
FOREIGN COUNTRIES CONCERNING MANAGEMENT OF ANADROMOUS
STOCKS ORIGINATING OUTSIDE US (I.E., ASIAN SALMON).

H) REGIONAL COUNCIL SYSTEM PLACES UYOTOO MUCH AUTHORITY
IN HANDS OF LOCAL INTERESTS PRECLUDING MEANINGFUL
NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
SHOESMITH

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